



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

Children's Long Term Care Redesign

Change to Base	FY 04		FY 05	
	GPR	All Funds	GPR	All Funds
Waiver Services			\$341,800	\$821,800
Implementation and Administration	\$210,000	\$420,000	\$135,000	\$270,000

Description of Proposal

- Begin implementing Children's Long Term Support Redesign in five pilot counties. Each pilot county will receive a select number of waiver slots as well as a limited amount of one time start-up funding. In addition, all counties will have the option to create county matched waiver slots using funds from the Community Options Program (COP), Family Support, Community Aids, or county tax levy as the required non-federal match. Statewide crisis slots will also be available to any county with an urgent need.

Background

- There are more than 3,500 children currently waiting to receive services in at least one of the existing long term care programs, including Family Support, the Community Options Program, and Medical Assistance waivers.
- In 1997, the Secretary appointed a children's committee on long term care as part of the effort to redesign the state system on long term care. The committee was charged with developing a vision of an improved system of services and supports for children with long term care needs.
- The Children's Redesign Committee developed a family centered model as an improvement to the current system of care for children with long term care needs and their families. It addressed five major areas of concern; access to services, choice of services, coordination of services, quality of services, and financing of services.
- The Children's Long Support Redesign will use Medical Assistance home and community based waivers and the fee for service program to maximize the use of current resources and federal funds. This program will not replace any existing long term care programs.
- The children's home and community based waivers will target children with physical, sensory, and developmental disabilities as well as children with severe emotional disturbance. None of the current MA waivers specifically target children and there is no waiver that serves individuals with severe emotional disturbance or mental health issues.
- Participation in Children's Long Term Care Redesign waivers will be made available on a voluntary basis. Participation will be offered as funding permits, to eligible children and families currently receiving services or on the waiting list for services in the Family Support Program, COP, MA home and community based waivers or MA fee for service.

- The waivers will streamline eligibility by having a single point of entry and an electronic functional and financial eligibility screen, provide services designed particularly for children with long term care needs and their families, and have a quality assurance review that is family focused with family directed outcomes.
- Except for children with developmental disabilities, the new children's waiver slots will only be available to eligible children until the age of 21. Slots for children with developmental disabilities will carry forward into the adult long term care system.

Rationale for Proposal

- There are currently over 3,500 children with disabilities waiting to receive services in the long term care system. While the children wait to be served, they often are not receiving any community supports or they are utilizing more expensive and inappropriate services through Medical Assistance, institutions or the foster care setting.
- The existing programs for children with disabilities have different points of entry, eligibility criteria, and allowable services. This creates a complex, fragmented and inefficient system of long term supports for children and their families.
- The new Children's Long Term Support Redesign will streamline the system while improving access, choice, coordination, quality and financing of services for children and their families.
- Due to the tight state fiscal conditions, only a modest amount of state funding can be provided in 03-05 biennium.
- This will preserve momentum and establish some pilot sites from which we can learn.